Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, PO, U.S.

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - MULTILATERAL LENDING PROGRAM

1. JUNE 29 MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO JUNE 28 TV APPEARANCE BY GOP FINANCE MINISTER MEDINA CARREIRA TO EXPLAIN ROLE OF MULTILATERAL LENDING PROGRAM IN PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN. MINISTER SAID PORTUGAL WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER LOAN WITH IMF. FOR SECOND HALF OF FORTHCOMING THREE-YEAR PERIOD - AND THIS LOAN WOULD BRING INTERNATIONAL BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE DURING THREE YEARS TO \$1.5 BILLION, MEDINA CARREIRA ALSO SAID: "WE ARE MOST PLEASED BY THE FIRM CONFIDENCE WHICH SO MANY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES PLACED IN PORTUGAL AND ITS GOVERNMENT, WITH THE PERSONAL BACKING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS EFFORT. THE MAJOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WAS AGREED UPON FOR US AMOUNTS TO A RECOGNITION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE VIRTUES OF OUR PEOPLE, IN THE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF DECOLONIZATION, AND IN THE COURAGE AND TENACITY WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DAILY, IN PEACE, FREEDOM AND WITH FULL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS, GOES ABOUT SEEKING TO BUILD A NEW SOCIETY..." UNCLASSIFIED

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2. CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE ALSO WAS GIVEN JUNE 29 TO STATEMENTS BY PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO, WHO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THIS ABOUT THE MULTILATERAL LENDING EFFORT: "... IT APPEARS TO BE NOT A LOAN BUT JUST PROMISES AND GOOD WILL BE ELEVEN COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE LOANS IN THE FUTURE, UNDER CONDITIONS YET TO BE DETERMINED, AND NOT A FIRM PROMISE OF LOANS. IT SEEMS TO ME THERE IS NO

LOAN OF 30 MILLION CONTOS." THERE WAS, HE REPEATED, AT THE PARIS MEETING THE "GOOD WILL OF ELEVEN COUNTRIES IN HELPING PORTUGAL, STUDYING WAYS TO ASSIST WHICH MIGHT NOT BE IN THE FORM OF LOANS -- ONCE PORTUGAL HAS NEGOTIATED CREDIT FROM THE IMF AND HAS A STABILIZATION PLAN IN SIGHT..."

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Subject: MEDIA REACTION - MULTILATERAL LENDING PROGRAM

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